

FORCE MANAGEMENT
POLICY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy)

Prepared by: LTC Michael Ostroski, OASD(FMP)(MPP)/AP, 695-5529
Date Prepared: March 15, 2000

SUBJECT: Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

PURPOSE: To establish a new policy to shorten the alcohol and marijuana (THC) pre-accession retest period from 180 days to 45 days.

- DISCUSSION:
- 1). Current DoD policy requires applicants for military service who, on their initial test, test positive for alcohol or THC to wait 180 days before retesting and reprocessing for entrance into military service (Tab B). Army requests the retest period be adjusted to 45 days. Army believes that many of these individuals would comply with DoD zero tolerance policy, but would find other alternatives in the current 6-month waiting period.
 - 2). The requirement to conduct pre-accession drug and alcohol testing is codified at section 978 of Title 10, USC (Tab D). Retest waiting periods are a matter of DoD policy. There is no statistical or medical basis for the current 180-day waiting period. Decreasing the retest waiting period to 45 days may help recruiting productivity with no expected risk of increased later attrition due to drug abuse. In-service testing programs begin early and should be effective in detecting any change in the incidence of drug use by service members.
 - 3). Approval of this change could have a positive effect on at risk April/May recruiting goal accomplishments

COORDINATION: ACTING GC modified as per attachment
ASD(HA) see attached
ASD(LA) see attached
Services-unanimously reported concurrence with this proposal at the February 22, 2000 meeting of the Joint Accession Group.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the policy memorandum at Tab A

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DECISION:

____ Approve
____ Disapprove
____ Other:



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